

AMA REPORT
MSSNY Council
May 30, 2019

The annual meeting of the American Medical Association will convene in Chicago next week (from June 6-12). New York will be represented by 20 delegates and a similar number of alternate delegates. New York is tied with Texas with the second largest delegation. California is larger. In addition we have a number of student and resident delegates and specialty delegates who live in New York who caucus with us so New York is well represented. There is a total of 640 delegates from the entire country.

There are eight reference committees at the annual meeting and this year Charlie Rothberg is chairing the legislative committee. This year NY has over thirty resolutions for the various committees.

This year we welcome new doctors to our delegation (Joseph DiPaola, Michael Brisman, Maria Basile, Stephen Coccaro, Louis Auguste, Art Fougner and Carlos Zapata). We look forward to working with them.

Things are going well since we separated from the Great Lakes Coalition and became independent. The coalitions are mostly for creating large groups to elect candidates to different positions. Since the break we have maintained communication with groups from other parts of the country who want to work with us.

This year two of our delegates are running for positions on councils. Tom Madejski is running for re-election to the Council on Medical Service and Corliss Varnum is running for a position on the Council on Science and Public Health. At this time both are unopposed so unless some late candidate appears, both will be elected by acclamation. We already have Bob Goldberg on the Council on Medical Education and Kira Geraci on Council on Science and Public Health and Jerry Cohen on Council on Constitution and Bylaws. Dr. Cohen is chair of his council. New York is well represented.

In addition we have appointees to other committees, (Malcolm Reid and Eric Eiting on health care disparities and Frank Dowling to the GLBTQ advisory committee). New York continues a relationship with the Big 4 (NY, Florida, Texas, and California) where policy is discussed and we discuss items of mutual interest to see if we can help each other with different resolutions. The agenda for this meeting tends to develop at the meeting itself but I know this year one of the items to be discussed is the issue of cognitive testing for doctors over 70 year old which has started to occur in California. Many feel this is discriminatory.

The entire handbook is available on the AMA website so if anyone who is not attending sees anything of interest to him or her and there is any information which he or she feels would be important, please feel free to contact someone from the delegation.

John Kennedy, MD
Delegation Chair

